

JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 27 JUN 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (original) A sphagnum cultivation base comprising a shape-imparted, aggregated mass of dried sphagnum and one or more units of live sphagnum, each of said unit(s) is a bunch of live sphagnum whose stems are bunched, the aggregated mass of dried sphagnum being in contact with the bunched stems of live sphagnum, a growth point of the live sphagnum being substantially exposed outside the aggregated mass of dried sphagnum, and the aggregated mass of dried sphagnum being maintained under condition that permit contact with water of a water basin.
2. (original) The sphagnum cultivation base as described in claim 1, wherein the aggregated mass of dried sphagnum is given a shape by a binder component containing at least paper fiber.
3. (currently amended) The sphagnum cultivation base as described in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the shape-imparted, aggregated mass of dried sphagnum has a depression, one or more unit(s) of the bunched stems of live sphagnum are inserted into the depression under compressed condition, and a growth point of the live sphagnum is substantially exposed from the depression of the

aggregated mass of dried sphagnum.

4. (currently amended) The sphagnum cultivation base as described in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the aggregated mass of dried sphagnum is given a shape by being fitted into a depression provided in a support.

5. (original) The sphagnum cultivation base as described in claim 4, wherein the depression provided in the support is a through hole that penetrates the support.

6. (currently amended) The sphagnum cultivation base as described in claim 4 ~~or 5~~, wherein the aggregated mass of dried sphagnum is substantially exposed at the bottom of the cultivation base.

7. (currently amended) A sphagnum cultivation ~~system~~ method, comprising

preparing a sphagnum cultivation base as described in ~~any of claims 1 through 6~~ claim 1, ~~in which,~~

wetting the aggregated mass of dried sphagnum by bringing the mass into contact with the water of the water basin, while maintaining a growth point of a live sphagnum plant at a point above the water surface of the water basin ~~wetting the aggregated mass of dried sphagnum by bringing the mass into contact with the~~

~~water of the water basin~~, and

supplying the water that permeates the aggregated mass to wet the dried sphagnum to live sphagnum, to thereby nurture the live sphagnum.

8. (currently amended) The sphagnum cultivation **system method** as described in claim 7, wherein the contact between the aggregated mass of dried sphagnum and the water of the water basin is achieved by installation of the sphagnum cultivation base in the water basin.

9. (currently amended) The sphagnum cultivation **system method** as described in claim 7, wherein the contact between the aggregated mass of dried sphagnum and the water of the water basin is achieved by means of a mechanism which permits the sphagnum cultivation base to be placed above the bottom of the water basin.

10. (currently amended) The sphagnum cultivation **system method** as described in claim 7, wherein the contact between the aggregated mass of dried sphagnum and the water of the water basin is achieved by means of a mechanism making use of a buoyant force to thereby float the sphagnum cultivation base in the vicinity of water surface.

11. (currently amended) The sphagnum cultivation **system method** as described in ~~any of claims 7 to 10~~ claim 7, wherein the sphagnum cultivation base has ~~further comprising~~ a flat and/or curved surface which extends substantially continuously from the opening, on the live sphagnum side, of a depression provided in an aggregated mass of dried sphagnum or a depression provided in a support, ~~wherein live sphagnum is propagated to thereby propagate live sphagnum~~ on the flat and/or curved surface.

12 - 16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) The sphagnum cultivation **system method** as described in ~~any of claims 11 through 16~~ claim 11, wherein the flat and/or curved surface which extends substantially continuously from the opening is a flat and/or curved surface which can be added later on.

18 - 21. (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) An addition component for providing an add-on flat and/or curved surface which is used in a sphagnum cultivation **system method** as described in claim 11, which component further provides an additional add-on flat and/or curved surface by being fixed, in a contacting manner, to an outer extension of a member defining a first flat and/or curved

S/N: TBA

6/27/05

Docket No.: SHM-103-PCT

surface which extends substantially continuously from the opening, on the live sphagnum side, of a depression provided in the aggregated mass of dried sphagnum or a depression provided in a support, whereby said additional add-on flat and/or curved surface forms a continuous flat and/or curved surface extending from the first flat and/or curved surface.

23 - 24. (cancelled)

25. (new) Sphagnum obtained by the sphagnum cultivation method as described in claim 11.